

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the legislation.

### ENERGY IS JOBS

(Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, you have heard it said many times: Energy is jobs. Energy is jobs.

We have a wealth of resources in our Nation: oil, natural gas, and coal. Yet we see gas prices rising to unbelievable rates here in America, approaching, in many places, in excess of \$4 a gallon. And what are we doing about it? Not very much. We've got a permitting process that is failing America. And we have an opportunity today to show America just how bad that problem is.

Later today, I'm going to be introducing a bill called the ROAD to Jobs Act. It stands for regulatory openness, accountability, and disclosure. And we are going to show the American people, through a report that is going to be required from the Council on Environmental Quality, just how flawed that permitting process is, requiring them to show the permits that are in cycle and what the economic implications are of not authorizing permits to go after America's resources.

### ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND SPENDING CUTS

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Last week, we saw real signs of economic recovery when the unemployment rate dropped below 9 percent for the first time in 2 years. This is encouraging news, but we still have a long way to go to promote private sector growth.

The Republicans are digging their heels in on billions of dollars of reckless cuts that threaten our economic growth and put 700,000 American jobs at risk. We agree that spending cuts are necessary to reduce the deficit. This is not about whether to cut or not. This is about where to cut, how much to cut, and how fast to cut. The Republican agenda threatens our core obligations to our seniors, to our safety, and to our future.

We need disciplined budgeting. We need targeted cuts that won't hurt our economy. And we need strategic investments to make America competitive for future generations. Republicans are putting partisan politics ahead of American priorities. Instead of enacting job-destroying cuts, we should be focusing on job creation and sound budgeting.

Enough is enough. It's time to get serious and pass a responsible spending plan that grows the economy and invests in the future.

### COMMENDING THE WORK OF THE U.S.-INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the work of the U.S.-India Business Council. Founded in 1975, the primary mission of the USIBC is to strengthen bilateral investments and trade between our two great nations. America and India now share \$50 billion in annual trade that mutually benefits both countries. Our two democracies—the world's largest and the world's oldest—have held joint military exercises, increased two-way tourism, and have engaged in bilateral cooperation on many fronts, including the global war on terrorism.

Thanks to the leadership of President Ron Somers, the USIBC, hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, has grown to 400 member companies creating jobs in America. Indian businesses have invested billions across the Nation, including Mittal Steel in Georgetown, South Carolina. For 36 years, USIBC has opened the doors of American businesses in India, creating jobs in both countries as strategic partners.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

I cherish the memory of Addison Morton Graves, who passed away 50 years ago on March 8.

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### BICYCLING ADVOCATES OFFER POSITIVE MESSAGE OF HOPE

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hundreds of cyclists, parents, business people, and especially bike industry leaders who flooded Capitol Hill this week with a message of bike partisanship. They were addressing the issues found on the front page every day in our newspapers about what would happen if we made it easier to use the most efficient form of urban transportation ever designed. It would make a huge difference to the health of our families, dealing with traffic congestion and air pollution, and reduce the tyranny of our addiction to oil if we burned more calories and less fossil fuel.

It is also big business. Billions of dollars are made from the sales, service, manufacturing, and bike tourism. And most important, it makes our communities more livable, our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

Thank you, cycling advocates, for your positive message of hope. I hope that it found receptive ears here on Capitol Hill.

### BURDEN OF BUDGET CUTS

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, we are engaged in a process now and over the next week to decide how we are going to fund the government for the next few months and for the next year. Republicans have already decided where they want to put the burden of the cuts that we all know we have to make in the budget. They want to put them on the least fortunate of our country.

Let me read something from The Washington Post this week written by Harold Meyerson. Mark Whitehouse of the Wall Street Journal looked at how businesses were dividing up the pie 18 months into every previous recovery since 1947 and found that 58 percent of their increases in productivity trickled down to their workers in increased wages. What has happened today is the other way around: Only 6 percent of productivity gains have gone to our newly more productive workers. In other words, our people, our working families have already paid the price.

What have the corporations and businesses done with that profit that they have made? Mostly, they are buying their stock back. They are not hiring people or investing in research. So as we decide where we are going to tighten the belt as we move forward on our budget, let's make sure that we tighten it on the fat cats as well as the people who have already been strangled.

### OPPOSING EDUCATION SPENDING CUTS

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to sit and not say anything about how we are damaging our future. We cannot consider the kind of cuts that are proposed to our future and think that this country will be prosperous. This plan eliminates the funding for math and science partnerships. We must make strategic investments in STEM education in order to maintain a competitive workforce.

This plan eliminates Even Start, Reading is Fundamental, and Striving Readers. It cuts more than \$1 billion from Head Start. This represents a massive setback for youth who are most in need. This plan is especially damaging for our youngest children just beginning their academic careers. These children will fall behind before they even get started. The Reading is Fundamental program has provided books for young children whose families cannot afford them.

Mr. Speaker, we must not allow our country to continue to fall behind in competitiveness.